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His weekly e-mail newsletter has highlighted bills such as one that would "prohibit the import, export and interstate commerce in bear gall bladders and bile" to end the use of bear organs for rituals, and a measure that would allow people to pay more taxes if they want to.

To be fair, not all the bills sounded unusual. One would make auto insurers share data when cars are declared a total loss so potential buyers in other states would have access to the information, and another that would create an address list to opt out of getting junk mail, similar to the "Do Not Call" list.

As in the past, the most important issue for Campbell will be bills to encourage fiscal responsibility. Next week he and other legislators in the conservative Republican Study Committee will unveil a package of legislation they're calling the "taxpayer's bill of rights."

"None of that is likely to get anywhere under this Congress, but we want to at least begin the discussion of a collection of things that we think will protect taxpayers from future deficits, from future overspending, from future overtaxation," Campbell said.

With Congress controlled by Democrats, it's unclear what kind of success Campbell and others in the GOP will have with their bills. But they'll keep plugging away.

As Campbell wrote of a bill to protect some large rocks off the coast of Laguna Beach, "OK, so it's not going to bring world peace. But somebody's got to do this stuff."